

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03542 281824Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
IO-13 SSM-03 MCT-01 EUR-12 /090 W
-----010727 076481 /14

R 281521Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2222
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWIAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 3542

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG PLO
SUBJ: SADAT'S EFFORTS FOR PLO MODERATION

REF: (A) CAIRO 3237, (B) JIDDA 1563

1. HKJ/PALESTINIAN LINKAGE. JIDDA REFTEL NOTES THAT EMBASSY JIDDA IS HEARING ARAFAT TILTS TOWARD "SYRIAN POSITION" THAT LINKAGE SHOULD OCCUR AFTER, NOT BEFORE, ESTABLISHMENT PALESTINIAN STATE. WHATEVER ARAFAT'S CURRENT STATE OF MIND, IT IMPORTANT TO RECALL THAT IN SADAT'S JUDGEMENT, ARAFAT HAS FORMALLY AGREED TO TRY FOR PRIOR LINKAGE. WHILE THERE IS REAL DANGER SADAT MAY BE OVERESTIMATING HIS INFLUENCE ON ARAFAT AND/OR ARAFAT'S INFLUENCE WITHIN PNC, WE THINK THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT BOTH THAT SADAT BELIEVES HE HAS ARAFAT'S AGREEMENT, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY GIVEN, AND THAT SADAT IS DOING HIS UTMOST

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TO ENSURE A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME FOR PNC.

2. SARG POSITION. REFTEL SUGGESTS SARG IS FIRMLY ON SIDE OF LINK AFTER WB/GAZA STATE ESTABLISHED. WE UNAWARE OF SARR POSITION AT PRESENT, BUT SADAT HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE BELIEVES ASAD CAN BE PERSUADED TO AGREE WITH EGYPTIAN STRATEGY, IF

HE HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO IN PRIVATE.

3. PALESTINIAN SOVEREIGNTY. CONCERNING QADDUMI'S PUBLIC
INSISTENCE ON SEPARATE PALESTINIAN ARMY, ETC., IT PERHAPS
USEFUL RECALL THAT GOE VIEW OF LINKED STATE HAS ALWAYS BEEN
PREDICATED ON PALESTINIAN POLITICAL ENTITY RETAINING SOVEREIGNTY.

4. FATAH/ISRAELI CONTACTS. POINT, WE ASSUME, OF PLO OFFICERS'
SELF-SERVING INSISTENCE THAT IT IS FATAH, NOT PLO, WHICH
AUTHORIZED TALK TO ISRAELIS (REF B, PARA 2) IS THAT IF
INITIATIVE BACKFIRES, PLO IS IN CLEAR, HAVING REPUDIATED
SUCH CONTACTS FROM THE BEGINNING. PRESUMABLY, NON-FATAH PLO
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT ENDORSE THESE EFFORTS.

5. AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL CHARTER. AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY
REPORTED AND AS EMBASSY JIDDA REMARKS, ARAFAT'S ABILITY GET
CONSTRUCTIVE CHARTER REVISIONS OUT OF SUSPICIOUS PNC IS
HIGHLY UNLIKELY. IN ANY CASE, ACCORDING TO FINAL ARTICLE OF
CHARTER, AMENDMENTS CAN NOT BE INTRODUCED AT MARCH 12 MEETING,
AS SPECIAL SESSION NECESSARY FOR ANY SUCH REVISION. WE THINK
POINT OF SIGNIFICANCE IS THAT WHILE SADAT MAY AGAIN BE OVER-
ESTIMATING HIS CAPACITY INFLUENCE OUTCOME OF PNC, HE DESERVES
HIGH MARKS FOR TRYING. FEW ARAB LEADERS HAVE EVER DARED GIVE
PALESTINIANS ADVICE, AND FEW STILL HAVE DARED BE PUBLIC
ABOUT IT. WE CAUTION AGAIN, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPTIANS TRADITIONALLY
GIVEN TO EASY ASSUMPTION THAT THEY CAN WITH HARD WORK AND
PERSERVERANCE, MAKE ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL AND PALESTINIANS
IN PARTICULAR DO THEIR BIDDING. WE SHOULD NOT SET OUT HOPES
TOO HIGH, BUT IF SYRIANS AND ESPECIALLY SAUDIS CAN BE INDUCED
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TO JOIN SADAT IN PUSHING PALESTINIAN MODERATES HARD, PNC
COULD YET TURN OUT SOMETHING USEFUL.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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